

Durham Research Online

Deposited in DRO:

03 December 2013

Version of attached file:

Accepted Version

Peer-review status of attached file:

Not peer-reviewed

Citation for published item:

Mughal, M. A. Z. (2010) 'Book review of 'The working landscape : founding, preservation, and the politics of place', by Peter F. Cannavò, Cambridge, MA : MIT Press, 2007.', *Political studies review.*, 8 (3). p. 408.

Further information on publisher's website:

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1478-9302.2010.002174.x/abstract>

Publisher's copyright statement:

The definitive version is available at www.wileyonlinelibrary.com

Additional information:

Use policy

The full-text may be used and/or reproduced, and given to third parties in any format or medium, without prior permission or charge, for personal research or study, educational, or not-for-profit purposes provided that:

- a full bibliographic reference is made to the original source
- a [link](#) is made to the metadata record in DRO
- the full-text is not changed in any way

The full-text must not be sold in any format or medium without the formal permission of the copyright holders.

Please consult the [full DRO policy](#) for further details.

Peter F. Cannavò (2007) *The Working Landscape: Founding, Preservation, and the Politics of Place*. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press. 425pp, £16.95, 978 0 262 53292 1

In this book Peter Cannavò discusses the practice of place in order to deal with the crisis of place that happens due to the conflict between founding and preservation. The book is comprised of seven chapters along with an introduction and a postscript.

Cannavò starts by exploring the meaning of place by discussing founding and preservation, and showing how place is threatened by globalisation. To explain the politics of land use practices and the conflict between founding and preservation, three important case studies are given. The first is about the war over the Northwest forest; the second focuses on the issue of sprawls; and the third case study considers the rebuilding of the former World Trade Center site in New York - Ground Zero.

Cannavò proposes an adjustment by emphasising the commonalities between founding and preservation. He then proceeds to discuss the crisis of place, criticising the founding of place from philosophical, political and economic perspectives, through which places are turned into an abstract space or commodity and threatened in an era of globalisation due to modern methods of communication. Cannavò highlights the role of environmentalists who defend the value of place, but he also criticises the 'doubly Preservationist view' of some environmentalists (p. 213), who take an extreme stand against the human founding of places.

Since the framework of the book is based on the study of cases in the USA (although its discussion also has wider implications), Cannavò proposes an elected regional government to support a democratic approach to integrating the founding and preservation of space by empowering local communities. He also makes some specific policy recommendations in order to draw together different initiatives by public officials, activists and new environmental political movements. To conclude, Cannavò uses the example of Hurricane Katrina to argue that resolving issues around the practice of place will ultimately help deal with the disasters caused by global climate change.

The book presents engaging theoretical discussions, policy implications and practicalities which are helpful in understanding the issues related to the politics of place in a local and global perspective. However, it lacks a chapter about learning and comparing from the developing world, where the practice of place at a local level has not encountered the crisis of place to such a huge extent. Human geographers, environmentalists, sociologists and anthropologists at the graduate or professional level working on issues related to the politics of place and urban development will all find this book very useful.

MUHAMMAD AURANG ZEB MUGHAL
Durham University